

# WHO WE ARE

Department of the Secretary Secretariat d'État du Canada

AND WHAT WE DO

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At Secretary of State we're concerned with people. Our programs and activities are aimed at promoting knowledge of our country, and pride in its cultures, history and traditions. Our work touches almost everyone who lives in Canada: people pursuing educational goals; people desiring citizenship: people wishing to exercise their official language rights; people striving to retain racial and cultural identities in our multicultural society; people increasing the understanding and practical enjoyment of human rights; people with disabilities claiming the recognition of their citizen's rights; young people wanting to broaden their knowledge of Canada; people in voluntary groups seeking to make a contribution to their community and to

We've been in business for a long time; in fact, Secretary of State is only a year younger than Canada itself. It was established in 1868 as the official channel of communication between the new Dominion of Canada and the Imperial government in the United Kingdom. The first Secretary of State of Canada was Hector Louis Langevin, one of the Fathers of Confederation.

Confederation.

Since the early days, the department has grown and changed, just as Canada itself has, and today many of our areas of concern are reflected in the Constitution Act and the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms.

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We help people become citizens, or acquire proof that they are already Canadian citizens. We are responsible for the Citizenship Act, considered one of the fairest and most progressive in the world. 1987 marks the 40th Anniversary of the proclamation of the first

Our citizenship courts and offices provide services through permanent locations in major centres across Canada as well as through

we are responsible for neiping Canadian, become more aware of their rights and resposibilities as citizens, and to use this awarene to build a better country together. For example, we encourage Canadians to take an activity of their provide help for groups working to improve the status of women through our Women's Program. The Native Citizens Directorate help Aboriginal peoples identify their needs and develop the means to deal with them. We provide assistance to national and regional organizations, to Aboriginal women, and Aboriginal people moving into urban areas.

The Youth Participation Program proviyoung people with the opportunity to devel as caring, participating citizens, and to discover and gain a greater appreciation and knowledge of Canada.

### MULTICULTURALISM

anada's multiculturalism policy was born on four development as a country of people of werse racial and religious backgrounds. Fos ering equality of economic, social, cultural and political opportunity for cultural and rack intenties is the basis of the Multiculturalism forgram. We work with cultural communities overnment organizations, and others in the tread areas.

- fostering appreciation of our diversity and
- strengthening cultural retention and ensuring that the heritages of all our communities
- assisting newcomers and members of racial and ethnocultural communities to establish themselves as full participants in Canadian

Overall, the program's priority is initiaives which increase multicultural understand ag and eliminate racial or cultural barriers to ull participation for all people in our society.

#### EDUCATION SUPPOR

One of the most important responsibilities of the Secretary of State is to help and encourage Canadians to continue their education beyond the high school level.

We provide assistance to provinces in support of universities, community colleges, and other educational institutions to meet the growing needs of the post-secondary student population.

Since 1977, federal support has been in the form of tax transfers and cash payments to the provincial and territorial governments. In 1987, this support for post-secondary education amounts to nearly \$5 billion

We also help financially needy full-time and part-time students at the post-secondary level. The Canada Student Loans Program was introduced in 1964, and today nearly 45 percent of full-time students are provided with guaranteed loans to help them pay for their post-secondary education. The program, which operates in conjunction with provincial programs of student aid, pays the interest on loans while the student remains in school and for six months or more afterwards.

### OFFICIAL LANGUAGE

One of the things that makes Canada special is its two official languages, English and French. The Secretary of State has a major responsibility in helping Canadians exercise their rights concerning their own official language and, if they wish, learn their second official language.

We help francophones in provinces outside Quebec and in the territories, and anglophones in Quebec, to preserve their language and cultural identity within their communities and the larger Canadian family. We also encourage business, industry, and voluntary associations to use both French and English in their activities.

We give financial assistance to the provincial and territorial governments to provide members of official language minority communities with educational services in their mother tongue, and increase opportunities for Canadians to learn their second official language. Through provincial departments or ministries of Education, bursaries and fellowships are awarded to post-secondary students pursuing official language studies, and to both minority and second official language teachers who wish to improve their skills.

To provincial, territorial, municipal, and school board administrations, we offer financial assistance as well as consultative services and technical aid in terminology, translation and second-language training to increase their ability to serve the public in both official languages.

We're responsible for helping the Parliament of Canada and departments and agencies of the Government of Canada to communicate effectively in both official languages as well as in sign, Aboriginal and foreign languages. In addition to providing translation and interpretation services, we direct an internationally recognized linguistic and terminological centre served by an advanced computerized terminology bank. We thus provide valuable assistance to the entire federal public service and, indirectly, to the Canadian public.

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The Secretary of State serves as the central point of reference for the Canadian government's domestic interests in human rights. We work with the public and with provincial and federal government departments, to increase the enjoyment of human rights and meet Canada's human rights obligations. These efforts promote better human rights policies, research, and education in both the public and private sectors. We also give financial assistance to non-governmental organizations

We prepare Canada's reports to the United Nations on the status of human rights in Canada, and we play a role in presenting Canada's views internationally.

## DISABLED PERSONS

issists the Secretary of State of Canada in his ole as Minister Responsible for the Status of pisabled Persons. It promotes, encourages, and coordinates initiatives that support equalty and full participation of disabled persons in the Canadian social and economic mainstream the Secretariat works with all levels of govern ment, the private sector, organizations of and or disabled persons, and international organizations.

In addition, the department's Disabled tsons Participation Program provides technitand financial assistance to disabled rsons voluntary organizations for advocacy twities which promote the participation of sabled persons in all aspects of society.

### SYMBOLS AND CEREMONIES

One of the department's original and continuing responsibilities is to promote national symbols and identity. We provide information to Canadians about such symbols as our flag. Coat of Arms and national anthem. Through the State Ceremonial Directorate, we organize and manage state ceremonies and special events of national significance, including visits members of the Royal Family, state funerals, and special national celebrations such as Canada Day. The department also has a program of national exhibitions and regional fairs where information about Canada, its achievements and its resources is shown in an entertaining and informative way. We are responsible for advising the Government of Canada on rules that govern ceremonial and

### CAN WE HELP YOU?

If you would like further information about what we do or how we can help you, please don't hesitate to contact us by writing or telephoning our office nearest you, listed in the blue or black-edged pages of most telephone directories, or:

Communications Directorate

prione directories, or: Communications Directorate Secretary of State Ottawa, Ontario KIA 0M5 Telephone: (819) 997-0055 TDD: (819) 997-8776 (charges will be

accepted)

This pamphlet is also available in braille.

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# LE SECRÉTARIAT D'ÉTAT EN BREF



### LE MINISTÈRE

Au Secrétariat d'Etat, ce qui compte, ce sont les gens. Pour susciter en eux une légitime toire, ses cultures, ses traditions. En fait, nos activités touchent presque tous les habitants du Canada, Désirez-vous poursuivre vos la seconde langue officielle? Tenez-vous à société multiculturelle? à mieux comprendre les droits de la personne et à mieux les faire droit qu'ont les personnes handicapées d'être ciation volontaire, désireux de faire votre part pour votre collectivité et votre pays? Alors, le

Créé en 1868 pour assurer les communica-Royaume-Uni, le Secrétariat d'État n'a qu'un an de moins que le Canada; et c'est Hector-Louis Langevin, l'un des pères de la Confédé-

À l'image du pays, le ministère a évolué droits et libertés.

Le Secrétariat d'État aide ceux et celles qui doivent justifier de leur citovenneté canal'une des plus évoluées et des plus justes au monde. L'année 1987 marque le 40e anniversaire de la proclamation de la première loi

canadienne sur la citoyenneté. Le public peut se prévaloir des services de citoyenneté dans les cours et bureaux de la

# MULTICULTURALISME

- mieux faire comprendre aux Canadiens tous

· aider les nouveaux arrivants et les membres des communautés raciales et ethnoculturelles à devenir des membres à part entière de la société canadienne.

Sont jugées prioritaires les initiatives qui visent à rapprocher les gens et à supprimer les barrières raciales ou culturelles qui font obstacle à la pleine participation de certains groupes à la vie de la société canadienne.

L'une des responsabilités les plus importantes du Secrétariat d'État consiste à aider et à encourager les Canadiens à poursuivre leurs études au niveau postsecondaire.

Il aide les provinces à contribuer au soutien des universités, des collèges communautaires et d'autres établissements d'enseignement pour mieux répondre aux exigences croissantes de la population étudiante de niveau postsecondaire.

Depuis 1977, l'aide fédérale a pris la forme de transferts de points d'impôts et de paiements en espèces aux gouvernements des provinces et des territoires. En 1987, ces transferts et paiements relatifs à l'enseignement postsecondaire s'élèvent à près de cinq milliards de dollars.

Le Secrétariat d'État aide aussi les étudiants de niveau postsecondaire, qu'ils le soient à plein temps ou à temps partiel. Le Programme canadien de prêts aux étudiants fut établi en 1964 et. aujourd'hui, près de 45 p. 100 des étudiants inscrits à plein temps bénéficient de prêts garantis leur permettant de poursuivre leurs études postsecondaires. Dans le cadre de ce programme, qui fonctionne de pair avec les programmes provinciaux d'aide aux étudiants, le gouvernement paie les intérêts des prêts tant que l'étudiant est aux études et pendant au moins six mois après la fin de ses études.

Le Canada se distingue notamment par ses deux langues officielles. l'anglais et le français. Il appartient au Secrétariat d'État d'aider les Canadiens à exercer leurs droits à l'égard de la langue officielle qu'ils parlent et, s'ils le

les territoires, et aux anglophones du Ouébec. langue et leur identité culturelle. Il encourage associations volontaires à utiliser le français et

Par ailleurs, il accorde une aide financière toires pour offrir aux membres des commuservices éducatifs dans leur langue maternelle et pour offrir davantage aux Canadiens l'occabourses aux étudiants de niveau postseconseconde et qui désirent se perfectionner.

riales, municipales et scolaires, le Secrétariat d'aide technique en matière de terminologie, de traduction et d'apprentissage de la langue seconde, afin de mieux servir le public dans

C'est au Secrétariat d'État qu'incombe la responsabilité d'aider le Parlement canadien ainsi que les ministères et organismes fédégères et en langage gestuel. Outre ses services de traduction et d'interprétation, le ministère

### DROITS DE LA PERSONNE

ses obligations en matière de droits de la de la recherche et de l'éducation en la matière.

# Personnes handicapées

Depuis sa création, l'une des responsabilités informe les Canadiens sur les symboles que ries et l'hymne national. La Direction du monies officielles et des manifestations spéciales d'intérêt national, telles les visites de ainsi que des célébrations comme la Fête du nales où les Canadiens peuvent se renseigner de facon divertissante sur le Canada, sur ses réalisations et sur ses ressources. Il conseille laires qui prévalent dans les cérémonies

Pour obtenir de plus amples renseignements sur le rôle ou sur les services que le Secrétariat écrire ou à téléphoner au bureau local le plus proche, dont l'adresse se trouve habituellement dans les pages bleues ou bordées de noir de l'annuaire, ou à l'adresse suivante : Direction des communications Secrétariat d'État

Nº de téléphone : (819) 997-0055

ATS: (819) 997-8776 (nous acceptons les

On peut également se procurer cette brochure

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